

CLAIMSWE CLAIM:

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1. A method of determining the location of a fault on a signal and/or electrical energy transmission line, comprising the steps of:

10 a) providing an electrical signal and/or energy transmission line and functionally implementing at least first and second transmitter/receiver means for producing and receiving bursts of high frequency signal thereupon, said first and second transmitter/receiver means being separated from one another by a known spatial distance along said electrical signal and/or energy transmission line;

20 b) providing a means for storing high frequency signal data transmitted and received by each of said first and second transmitter/receiver means, as a function of time;

25 said method further comprising repeating step c until an unexpected burst of high frequency signal not transmitted by either of said first and second transmitter/receiver means, is received by both said first and second transmitter/receiver means, said step c being:

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c) while storing high frequency signal data which documents the transmission and receipt of high frequency signals sent and received by both said first and second transmitter/receiver means:

upon receipt of a re-occurring initiating event detected by said first transmitter/receiver means causing said first transmitter/receiver means to generate and transmit a burst of high frequency signal which propagates toward said second transmitter/receiver means, said burst of high frequency signal being received by said second transmitter/receiver means; and

10 at least one selection from the group consisting of:

15 upon receipt of said re-occurring initiating event detected by said second transmitter/receiver means, causing said second transmitter/receiver means to generate and transmit a burst of high frequency signal which propagates toward said first transmitter/receiver means, said burst of high frequency signal being received by said first transmitter/receiver means; and

20 after detection of a signal from the first transmitter/receiver means, causing said second transmitter/receiver means to generate and transmit a burst of high frequency signal which propagates toward said first transmitter/receiver means, said burst of high frequency signal being received by said first transmitter/receiver means;

25 30 d) said method further comprising, upon the detection and storage of an unexpected burst of high frequency signal by, not generated by either said first or second transmitter/receiver means, causing at least transmitted and received high frequency signal

data generated in step c which corresponds to the last occurrence of the re-occurring initiating event, and data which documents the unexpected high frequency signal to be fixed in said means for storing high frequency data as functions of time;

e) by utilizing data stored in said means for storing high frequency signal data, developing and aligning first and second effective high frequency data plots vs time which correspond to signals received by said first and second transmitter/receiver means respectively, so that:

a difference in time between the initiation of the burst of high frequency signal provided by the first transmitter/receiver means in said first effective high frequency data plot vs time, and the receipt of said burst of high frequency signal by said second transmitter/receiver means in said second effective high frequency data plot vs time;

is caused to be equal to:

a difference in time between the initiation of the burst of high frequency signal provided by the second transmitter/receiver means in said second effective high frequency data plot vs time and receipt of said burst of high frequency signal by said first transmitter/receiver means in said first effective high frequency data plot vs time;

said effective data plots including data corresponding to detection of said unexpected burst of high frequency signal not generated by either said first or second transmitter/receiver means;

f) measuring a resulting time difference in said first and second aligned effective plots vs. time between corresponding analogous points in unexpected high frequency signal detected by said first transmitter/receiver means and said second transmitter/receiver means; and

5 g) converting said time difference determined in step f, into a spatial distance of location of said signal and/or electrical energy transmission fault located between said first and second transmitter/receiver means.

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2. A method of determining the location of a fault on a signal and/or electrical energy transmission line as in Claim 1, in which the signal and/or electrical energy transmission line is a 50 or 60 Hz AC electrical power transmission line and in which said re-occurring initiating event which is utilized to cause said first transmitter/receiver means to generate and transmit a burst of high frequency signal is a voltage and/or current zero crossing which arrives at said first and second transmitter/receiver means at times offset from one another by the time of propagation of said zero crossing between said first and second transmitter/receiver means based on the velocity of propagation thereof along said 50 or 60 Hz AC electrical power transmission line.

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30 3. A method of determining the location of a fault on a signal and/or electrical energy transmission line as in Claim 2, in which the initiating signal voltage and/or current zero crossing is utilized to cause said second transmitter/receiver means to generate and

transmit a burst of high frequency signal and wherein
said signal voltage and/or current zero crossing
propagates from said first to second transmitter/
receiver at a slower velocity of propagation than does
the burst of high frequency signal transmitted from
said first transmitter/receiver means and received by
said second transmitted/received means or from said
second transmitted/received means to first
transmitted/received means.

10 4. A method of determining the location of a fault on
a signal and/or electrical energy transmission line as
in Claim 1, in which the initiating signal received by
the second transmitter/receiver is generated by the
15 first transmitter/receiver.

20 5. A method of determining the location of a fault on
a signal and/or electrical energy transmission line as
in Claim 1, in which there is no time difference in
said aligned effective plots vs. time, between
analogous points in the detection of the unexpected
high frequency signal or fault by said first
transmitter/receiver means and said second
transmitter/receiver means, and the fault on said
25 signal and/or electrical energy transmission line is
located substantially half way between said first and
second transmitter/receiver means.

30 6. A method of determining the location of a fault on
a signal and/or electrical energy transmission line as
in Claim 1, in which there is a time difference in
said aligned effective plots vs. time, between
analogous points in the detection of the unexpected
high frequency signal or fault by said first

transmitt r/r ceiver m ans and said second transmitter/receiver means, and the fault on said signal and/or electrical energy transmission line is located at a selection from the group consisting of:

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being closer to said first transmitter/receiver means; and

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being closer to said second transmitter/receiver means.

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7. A method of determining the location of a fault on a signal and/or electrical energy transmission line as in Claim 1, in which the terminology high frequency includes frequencies above 1,000 Hz.

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8. A method of determining the location of a fault on a signal and/or electrical energy transmission line as in Claim 1, in which the frequency content of the high frequency bursts transmitted by said first and second transmitter/receiver means is selected to approximate the frequency content of said unexpected high frequency signal resulting from a fault on the electrical signal and/or energy transmission line so as to provide substantially similar velocity of propagation.

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9. A method for determining the location of a fault on a signal and/or electrical energy transmission line as in Claim 7, in which the frequency of the unexpected high frequency signal is on the order of 1 MHz and that of the high frequency bursts transmitted by said first and second transmitted/received means is on the order of 300-500 KHz

10. A method of determining the location of a fault on a signal and/or electrical energy transmission line as in Claim 1, in which there are more than two transmitter/receiver means.

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11. A method of determining the location of a fault on a signal and/or electrical energy transmission line as in Claim 1, in which said means for storing high frequency signal data transmitted and received by each 10 of said first and second transmitter/receiver means, as a function of time is configured in such a manner to allow storing data corresponding to multiple fault events.

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12. A method of determining the location of a fault on a signal and/or electrical energy transmission line as in Claim 1, in which the electrical signal and/or energy transmission line comprises at least two conductors.

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13. A method of determining a location of a fault on a signal and/or electrical energy transmission line as in Claim 9, in which the signal and/or electrical energy transmission line is a three-phase power 25 transmission system.

14. A method of determining a location of a fault on a signal and/or electrical energy transmission line as in Claim 9, in which the signal and/or electrical 30 energy transmission line is a power transmission system using an AC power wave that is low enough in frequency such that its velocity of propagation is slow enough so as to allow the markers to propagate faster than the AC power wave does.

15. A method of determining a location of a fault on
a signal and/or electrical energy transmission line as
in Claim 9, in which the signal and/or electrical
energy transmission line is such that the invention
transmitter/receivers can randomly trigger each other
so as to exchange marker signals. The randomly timed
triggering events are of sufficient low frequency so
that the marker signals have time to traverse
reasonable lengths of cable under test, as required by
the application and not be mixed with each others
markers.

16. A method of determining a location of a fault on
a signal and/or electrical energy transmission line as
in Claim 9, in which the signal and/or electrical
energy transmission line is a single-phase power
transmission system.

17. A method of determining a location of a fault on
a signal and/or electrical energy transmission line as
in Claim 9, in which the signal and/or electrical
energy transmission line is an aircraft power
transmission system.

18. A method of determining a location of a fault on
a signal and/or electrical energy transmission line as
in Claim 9, in which the signal and/or electrical
energy transmission line is a spacecraft power
transmission system.

19. A method of determining a location of a fault on
a signal and/or electrical energy transmission line as
in Claim 9, in which the signal and/or electrical
energy transmission line is a commercial or naval ship
power transmission system.

20. A method of determining a location of a fault on
a signal and/or electrical energy transmission line as
in Claim 9, in which the signal and/or electrical
energy transmission line is a localized industrial
power transmission system.

5 21. A method of determining the location of a fault
on a signal and/or electrical energy transmission
line, comprising the steps of:

10 a) providing an electrical signal and/or energy
transmission line and functionally implementing
thereupon first and second transmitter/receiver means
for producing and optionally receiving bursts of high
15 frequency signal, and a receiver means for receiving
bursts of high frequency signal, said first and second
transmitter/receiver means each being separated from
said receiver means which is present therebetween by a
known spatial distance along said electrical signal
20 and/or energy transmission line;

25 b) providing a means for storing high frequency
signal data transmitted and received by each of said
first and second transmitter/receiver means, as a
function of time;

30 said method further comprising repeating step c until
an unexpected burst of high frequency signal not
transmitted by either of said first and second
transmitter/receiver means, is received by both said
first and second transmitter/receiver means and said
receive means, said step c being:

c) while storing high frequency signal data

which documents the transmission and receipt of high frequency signals sent by both said first and second transmitter/receiver means and received by said receiver means:

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causing said first transmitter means to generate and transmit a burst of high frequency signal which propagates toward said receiver means; and

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causing said second transmitter means to generate and transmit a burst of high frequency signal which propagates toward said receiver means; and

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d) said method further comprising, upon the detection of an unexpected burst of high frequency signal by said first or second transmitter/receiver means and/or receiver means, but not generated by either said first or second transmitter/receiver means, causing at least transmitted and received high frequency signal data generated in step c which corresponds to the last occurrence of the re-occurring initiating event, and data which documents the unexpected high frequency signal to be fixed in said means for storing high frequency data as functions of time;

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e) by utilizing data stored in said means for storing high frequency signal data, developing and aligning first and second effective high frequency data plots vs time which correspond to signals received by said first and second transmitter/receiver means to receiver means respectively, so that:

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a difference in time between the initiation of the burst of high frequency signal provided by the

5 first transmitter/receiver means in said first effective high frequency data plot vs time, and the receipt of said burst of high frequency signal by said receiver means in said second effective high frequency data plot vs time;

is caused to be equal to:

10 a difference in time between the initiation of the burst of high frequency signal provided by the second transmitter/receiver means in said second effective high frequency data plot vs time and receipt of said burst of high frequency signal by said receiver means in said first effective high frequency data plot vs time;

15 said effective data plots including data corresponding to detection of said unexpected burst of high frequency signal not generated by either said first or second transmitter/receiver means;

20 f) measuring a resulting time difference in said first and second aligned effective plots vs. time between corresponding analogous points in unexpected high frequency signal detected by said receiver means; and

25 g) converting said time difference determined in steps f into a spatial distance of location of said unexpected high frequency signal between said first and second transmitter/receiver means.

30 22. A method as in Claim 21 in which the step c causing of said first transmitter means to generate

and transmit a burst of high frequency signal is based upon:

receipt thereby of a re-occurring initiating event;
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in which the step c causing of said second transmitter means to generate and transmit a burst of high frequency signal is based upon a selection from the
10 group consisting of:

receipt thereby of a re-occurring initiating event;
and

15 a signal from the first transmitter/receiver means; by said receiver means.

23. A method of determining the location of a fault on a signal and/or electrical energy transmission
20 line, comprising the steps of:

a) providing an electrical signal and/or energy transmission line and functionally implementing at least first and second transmitter means for producing
25 bursts of high frequency signal thereupon and a receiver means for receiving bursts of high frequency signal, said first and second transmitter means being separated from one another by a known spatial distance along said electrical signal or energy transmission line, and said separate receiver means being placed midway therebetween;

b) providing a means for storing high frequency signal data transmitted by each of said first and

s cond transmitter means and received by said rec iver
means, as a function of tim ;

5 said method further comprising repeating step c until
an unexpected burst of high frequency signal not
transmitted by either of said first and second
transmitter means, is received by receiver means, said
step c being:

10 c) while storing high frequency signal data
which documents the transmission of high frequency
signals sent by both said first and second transmitter
means and receipt thereof by said receiver means, in
any functional order:

15 causing said first transmitter means to generate
and transmit a burst of high frequency signal
which propagates toward said receiver means; and

20 causing said second transmitter means to generate
and transmit a burst of high frequency signal
which propagates toward said receiver means; and

25 d) said method further comprising, upon the
detection of an unexpected burst of high frequency
signal by said receiver means, causing said unexpected
burst of high frequency signal and high frequency
signal data generated in step c which corresponds to
at least the last occurrence of the first and second
30 transmitter generated bursts of high frequency
signal, to be fixed in said means for storing high
frequency data as functions of time;

35 e) by utilizing data stored in said means for
storing high frequency signal data as a function of

time received by said receiver means from said first and second transmitters respectively, developing and aligning first and second effective high frequency data plots vs time so that:

5 a difference in time between the initiation of the burst of high frequency signal provided by the first transmitter means in said first effective high frequency data plot vs time, and the receipt of said burst of high frequency signal by said receiver means in said second effective high frequency data plot vs time;

is caused to be equal to:

15 a difference in time between the initiation of the burst of high frequency signal provided by the second transmitter means in said second effective high frequency data plot vs time, and the receipt of said burst of high frequency signal by said receiver means in said first effective high frequency data plot vs time;

25 said effective data plots including data corresponding to the detection of said unexpected burst of high frequency signal not generated by either said first or second transmitter means;

30 f) measuring a resulting time difference in said first and second aligned effective plots vs. time between corresponding analogous points in unexpected high frequency signal detected by said receiver means; and

g) converting said time difference determined in step f into a spatial distance of location of said unexpected burst of high frequency signal between said first and second transmitter means.

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24. A method as in Claim 23 in which the step c causing of said first transmitter means to generate and transmit a burst of high frequency signal is based upon:

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receipt thereby of a re-occurring initiating event; and

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in which the step c causing of said second transmitter means to generate and transmit a burst of high frequency signal is based upon a selection from the group consisting of:

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receipt thereby of a re-occurring initiating event; and

a signal from the first transmitter/receiver means; by said receiver means.

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25. A method of determining the location of a fault on a signal and/or electrical energy transmission line, comprising the steps of:

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a) providing an electrical signal and/or energy transmission line and functionally implementing at least first and second transmitter/receiver means for producing and receiving bursts of high frequency signal thereupon, said first and second transmitter/receiver means being separated from one another by a known spatial distance along said electrical signal and/or energy transmission line;

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b) providing a means for storing high frequency signal data transmitted and received by each of said first and second transmitter/receiver means, as a function of time;

5 said method further comprising repeating step c until an unexpected burst of high frequency signal not transmitted by either of said first and second transmitter/receiver means, is received by both said first and second transmitter/receiver means, said step 10 c being:

15 c) while storing high frequency signal data which documents the transmission and receipt of high frequency signals sent and received by both said first and second transmitter/receiver means, in any functional order:

20 causing said first transmitter/receiver means to generate and transmit a burst of high frequency signal which propagates toward said second transmitter/receiver means, said burst of high frequency signal being received by said second transmitter/receiver means; and

25 causing said second transmitter/receiver means to generate and transmit a burst of high frequency signal which propagates toward said first transmitter/receiver means, said burst of high frequency signal being received by said first transmitter/receiver means; and

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5 d) said method further comprising, upon the detection of an unexpected burst of high frequency signal by, not generated by either said first or second transmitter/receiver means, causing at least
10 transmitted and received high frequency signal data generated in step c which corresponds to the last occurrence of the transmission by each of said first and second transmitter/receiver means, and data which documents the unexpected high frequency signal to be fixed in said means for storing high frequency data as functions of time;

15 e) by utilizing data stored in said means for storing high frequency signal data as functions of time, developing and aligning first and second effective high frequency data plots vs time which correspond to signals received by said first and second transmitter/receiver means respectively, so that:

20 a difference in time between the initiation of the burst of high frequency signal provided by the first transmitter/receiver means in said first effective high frequency data plot vs time, and
25 the receipt of said burst of high frequency signal by said second transmitter/receiver means in said second effective high frequency data plot vs time;

is caused to be equal to:

30 a difference in time between the initiation of the burst of high frequency signal provided by the second transmitter/receiver means in said second effective high frequency data plot vs time and
35 receipt of said burst of high frequency signal by

said first transmitter/receiver means in said first effective high frequency data plot vs time;

5 said effective data plots including data corresponding to detection of said unexpected burst of high frequency signal not generated by either said first or second transmitter/receiver means;

10 f) measuring a resulting time difference in said first and second aligned effective plots vs. time between corresponding analogous points in unexpected high frequency signal detected by said first transmitter/receiver means and said second transmitter/receiver means; and

15 g) converting said time difference in time determined in step f into a spatial distance of location of the source of the unexpected high frequency signal located between said first and second transmitter/receiver means.

26. A method as in Claim 25 in which the step c causing of said first transmitter/receiver means to generate and transmit a burst of high frequency signal 25 is based upon:

receipt thereby of a re-occurring initiating event; and

30 in which the step c causing of said second transmitter/receiver means to generate and transmit a burst of high frequency signal is based upon a selection from the group consisting of:

rec ipt thereby of a r -occurring initiating event;
and

5 a signal from the first transmitter/receiver means
by said receiver means.

27. A method of determining the velocity of
propagation of high frequency signals on a signal
and/or electrical energy transmission line, comprising
10 the steps of:

a) providing an electrical signal and/or energy
transmission line and functionally implementing at
least first and second transmitter/receiver means for
15 producing bursts of high frequency signal thereupon
and a receiver means for receiving bursts of high
frequency signal, said first and second
transmitter/receiver means being separated from one
another by a known spatial distance along said
20 electrical signal or energy transmission line, and
said separate receiver means being placed midway
therebetween;

b) providing a means for storing high frequency
25 signal data transmitted by each of said first and
second transmitter/receiver means and received by said
receiver means, as a function of time;

30 said method further comprising repeating step c until
an unexpected burst of high frequency signal not
transmitted by either of said first and second
transmitter/receiver means, is received by receiver
means, said step c being:

c) while storing high frequency signal data

which documents the transmission of high frequency signals sent by both said first and second transmitter/receiver means and receipt thereof by said receiver means, in any functional order:

5 causing said first transmitter/receiver means to generate and transmit a burst of high frequency signal which propagates toward said receiver means; and

10 causing said second transmitter/receiver means to generate and transmit a burst of high frequency signal which propagates toward said receiver means; and

15 d) by utilizing data stored in said means for storing high frequency signal data as a function of time received by said receiver means from said first and second transmitter/receivers respectively, developing and aligning first and second effective high frequency data plots vs time so that:

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25 a difference in time between the initiation of the burst of high frequency signal provided by the first transmitter/receiver means in said first effective high frequency data plot vs time, and the receipt of said burst of high frequency signal by said receiver means in said second effective high frequency data plot vs time;

30 is caused to be equal to:

35 a difference in time between the initiation of the burst of high frequency signal provided by the second transmitter/receiver means in said second

effectiv high frequency data plot vs time, and the receipt of said burst of high frequency signal by said receiver means in said first effective high frequency data plot vs time;

5 dividing the known spatial separation of the first and second transmitter/receiver means by the time difference determined in step d.

10 28. A method of determining the velocity of propagation of high frequency signals on a signal and/or electrical energy transmission line, comprising the steps of:

15 a) providing an electrical signal and/or energy transmission line and functionally implementing at least first and second transmitter means for producing bursts of high frequency signal thereupon and a receiver means for receiving bursts of high frequency signal, said first and second transmitter means being separated from one another by a known spatial distance along said electrical signal or energy transmission line, and said separate receiver means being placed midway therebetween;

25 b) providing a means for storing high frequency signal data transmitted by each of said first and second transmitter means and received by said receiver means, as a function of time;

30 c) while storing high frequency signal data which documents the transmission of high frequency signals sent by both said first and second transmitter means and receipt ther of by said receiver means, in

any functional order:

5 causing said first transmitter means to generate and transmit a burst of high frequency signal which propagates toward said receiver means; and

10 causing said second transmitter means to generate and transmit a burst of high frequency signal which propagates toward said receiver means; and

15 10 d) by utilizing data stored in said means for storing high frequency signal data as a function of time received by said receiver means from said first and second transmitters respectively, developing and aligning first and second effective high frequency data plots vs time so that:

20 20 a difference in time between the initiation of the burst of high frequency signal provided by the first transmitter means in said first effective high frequency data plot vs time, and the receipt of said burst of high frequency signal by said receiver means in said second effective high frequency data plot vs time;

25 is caused to be equal to:

30 30 a difference in time between the initiation of the burst of high frequency signal provided by the second transmitter means in said second effective high frequency data plot vs time, and the receipt of said burst of high frequency signal by said receiver means in said first effective high frequency data plot vs time;

dividing the known spatial separation of the first and second transmitter means to the receive means by the time difference determined in step d.

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